

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 12978 261115Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 EB-08 AID-05 PM-05
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FOR DALLEY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION, GENEVA, AUGUST 14-25

REF: GENEVA 12931

SUMMARY: AFTER VOTING AGAINST PARAS 17 AND 18 OF DRAFT
DECLARATION, THE EC NINE, CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW
ZEALAND DID NOT PARTICIPATE FURTHER IN THE WORLD
CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.
NORWAY VOTED AGAINST THE PARAS BUT DID NOT END PARTICI-
PATION UNTIL THE COMMITTEE WAS ADJOURNED. SWEDEN,
FINLAND AND ICELAND VOTED AGAINST THE TWO PARAS BUT DID
NOT WALK OUT. SPAIN AND PORTUGAL ABSTAINED ON THE VOTES;
GREECE VOTED IN FAVOR OF PARA 17 AND ABSTAINED ON PARA
18. END SUMMARY

1. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT DECLARATION RESUMED IN THE
AFTERNOON AND CONTINUED, WITHOUT A BREAK, UNTIL 9:00 P.M.
WHEN VOTE ON PARAS 17 AND 18 WAS CALLED FOR, THE EC NINE,
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AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND NEW ZEALAND VOTED AGAINST BOTH,
MADE STATEMENTS THAT THEY WERE NO LONGER PARTICIPATING
IN THE CONFERENCE AND WALKED OUT OF THE MEETING. NORWAY
VOTED AGAINST BOTH PARAS BUT REMAINED IN THE MEETING
UNTIL COMMITTEE I WAS ADJOURNED. FINLAND AND SWEDEN
VOTED AGAINST THE PARAS BUT CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN
THE CONFERENCE. (THEIR NEGATIVE VOTES IN PLENARY

PREVENTED CONFERENCE DOCUMENT BEING ADOPTED BY
CONSENSUS SEPTEL). GREECE VOTED IN FAVOR OF PARA 17 BUT
ABSTAINED ON PARA 18. JAPAN, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL
ABSTAINED ON BOTH PARAS. THE VOTE ON PARA 17 WAS:
65-18-20. THE VOTE ON PARA 18 WAS: 67-18-18.

2. WEO'S HESITATED TO SPECULATE WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES
OF WALK OUT WOULD BE. AFRICANS DID NOT APPEAR ANGRY
ONLY UNABLE TO COMPREHEND WHY THE WEST OPPOSED THE
LANGUAGE OF PARAS 17 AND 18 SO VIGOROUSLY. MAINTAINING
THAT LANGUAGE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY EQUATE ZIONISM WITH
RACISM, AFRICANS EVIDENTLY FAILED TO TAKE SERIOUSLY,
WARNINGS BY NINE THAT THE NINE AND OTHER WESTERN MEMBER
STATES WOULD WALK OUT OF THE CONFERENCE IF OBJECTIONABLE
LANGUAGE WAS NOT DELETED.

3. RETALIATIONS, IF THERE ARE ANY, WILL PROBABLY SURFACE
IN THE THIRD COMMITTEE AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
WHERE WESTERN INITIATIVES MIGHT ENCOUNTER STRONGER
OPPOSITION THAN USUAL. VANDEN HEUVEL

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